

March 30, 1979

LB 569

party organization.

SENATOR WARNER: I understand that.

SPEAKER MARVEL: There is an amendment on the desk. Clerk, read the amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely moves to amend: Strike all the new language in lines 3-5 on page 2 of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, we just passed the committee amendments to this bill and I don't think we all realize what we were voting for. If you will take a look at what I am trying to do with this motion, it is to take out a phrase that would read as follows: The Secretary of State pursuant to party rules shall place a new line on the ballot entitled None of the Above. I know my fellow Democrats would rather not have me bring up this issue or to delay this bill but it is too important to me to allow a bill to pass on to Select File with something like that included, and I know, I know that there are those who feel that this is a perhaps, how shall I phrase it, a cute thing to do or a catchy thing to do to include that in the ballot or allow that provision to possibly be put on the ballot but I think it is counterproductive. I don't think we should play around and play games with the ballot and try and push over on the general public the idea that they may not be satisfied with either of the candidates in the general election or any of the candidates in the primary election and that, well, these people are all jokers, I am going to vote for none of the above, when in fact, when in fact, that is pie in the sky. That is being unrealistic. That is not recognizing the limitations that we face as human beings, as candidates, and as public officials and that we are trying to strive to do the best job possible and we are not perfect. This world isn't perfect and this state isn't perfect and the candidates aren't perfect, and Orval is but most of us aren't. I think it is wrong to try and foist on the public the idea that they can play games, that they have another choice other than the candidates that run. That they can sign in none of the above and that is just fine and that is going to accomplish something when it is not. All it is going to accomplish is a little more cynicism, a little more skepticism, a little more distrust, a little less confidence in our government. I think it is wrong. I realize, I know maybe I am a little too strong on